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hecha de orden del CIUDADANO GENERAL JUAN VINCENTE GOMEZ. Vols. I and II. (Caracas: Tipografía Americana. 1922. Pp. xxii, 583; 593.)

Agriculture, Mining, Forestry, and Fisheries

The National Resources of South Africa. By R. A. LEHFELDT. (London: Longmans, Green & Company. 1922. Pp. 79.)

Since South Africa is famous for its production of diamonds in the rough, we may well expect to find something of the sort in a study of the income of that region made by a teacher in the infant University of the Witwatersrand—an infant still less than a year old. One is much surprised, then, to find the product not a rough stone but a polished gem of the first water. Too many of the works on the subject of income are characterized either by a labored and tiresome style or by a careless analysis of the problems involved. Professor Lehfeldt has accomplished the difficult task of presenting his subject in a pleasing, readable form; and he possesses such a good grasp of economic principles and has analyzed his problem so carefully that the reviewer has been able to detect surprisingly few flaws in the reasoning given.

The book is worth reading not only as an example of scientific analysis but also for the facts presented therein. Comparisons are made throughout with conditions in the United States, England, and Australia. The computation of the total income of South Africa is complicated by the fact that a large fraction of South African property is held abroad. The income of the average white inhabitant of South Africa is shown to be less than two thirds as great as that of the average inhabitant of the United States. There is, however, a striking difference between the average income of the whites and the average income of the whole population of South Africa, for four fifths of the inhabitants of this region are colored and the per capita income of this great majority of the inhabitants is estimated at the unbelievably small amount of £5½ per annum. South Africans must, then, be considered as economically much worse off than the people of the United States.

Mining, of course, plays a much more important and manufacturing a much less important rôle in South Africa than in the United States. That the foreign trade of the former is a matter of the first moment is evidenced by the fact that the value of exports equals half of the net value of goods produced—a proportion nearly ten times as great as that normally prevailing in the United States. Gold, diamonds, and wool are the leading exports. It will surprise most American readers to know that South Africa is a food importing rather than a food exporting region.

Despite the differences in average per capita income and the racial composition of the population, Professor Lehfeldt finds that in South

Africa, just as in England and the United States, wages and salaries account for about two thirds of the national income. He endorses the views previously set forth by Professor Bowley and by the present reviewer that it is not feasible to improve materially the condition of the wage-earning classes by any process of redistribution but that appreciable betterment can only be brought about by methods which will give greater per capita production.

Protectionism is apparently rampant in South Africa as well as in this country, but Professor Lehfelddt, like most economists, has little faith that this panacea, if put into operation, will accomplish as much good as harm.

This review may well close with the words of Premier J. C. Smuts, who writes the preface to the little volume—"The student of economics, the legislator, and the average citizen will read this book with profit, and I commend the author's views to the serious consideration of all."

WILLFORD I. KING.

NEW BOOKS

APOSTOL, P. and MICHELSON, A. *La lutte pour le pétrole et la Russie*. (Paris: Payot. 1922. Pp. 224.)

ARCHBALD, H. *The four-hour day in coal*. (New York: H. W. Wilson Co. 1922. Pp. xiii, 148. \$1.50.)

Eight compact chapters, entitled Grievances, Coal Mining, The Mine Foreman and His Problem, Time for the Miner, Amount of Work for the Miner, Record of Complaints in Illinois, Discouragements and the Lack of Thrift, and The Engineering Need, constitute this study of bituminous coal mining. The introductory note is by the Bureau of Industrial Research, and there are twenty-two charts and tables. Long experience as a mining engineer enables Mr. Archbald to analyze lucidly the problems of coal mining—its intermittent character, the technical difficulties of routing empty cars to avoid wasting the miners' time, the ineffectual struggles of poorly paid foremen against too much detail, all resulting in an average daily output of scarcely four tons instead of six or eight. The industry is speculatively overdeveloped, and some 100,000 miners too many are kept on hand (idle piece-workers costing the mines nothing) thus reducing the opportunities for work for all. When miners actually mine coal during only a quarter, perhaps, of possible working hours in a year, it is imperative that the price paid per ton be high.

The book is written without bitterness, and offers no easy solution. No distinction is made between conditions in union and non-union mines, except in stating that the latter lack means of redress for grievances, such as the union mines obtain through adjustment boards and union contracts.

VON BRAUN, E. *Die Hebung der landwirtschaftlichen Produktion als Grundlage des deutschen Wiederaufbaus*. Finanz- und volkswirtschaftliche Zeitfragen, Heft 78. (Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke. 1921. Pp. 16. 3 M.)